



## IDEA Part C Fall - Winter Family Newsletter

November-December 2013 Volume 3 No 6

### Message from Part C's State Family Resource Coordinator, Information & Referral..... **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!**

Dear Parents (Caregivers),

When our youngest son was born prematurely on a Thanksgiving morning, 24 years ago, with a diagnosis of "something is wrong", he was a shock to everyone, including our family Pediatrician. Doctors at the hospital were not sure of what to tell us and did not expect a good outcome. They did not know how long he would live or what the prognosis would be. After two weeks in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (ICU), they sent him home when there was nothing more they could do medically. We were told that we should probably see some early interventionists. Period. No connection to any programs or agencies provided.

Many other families have similar stories. Yet the world has changed

since then and things are mostly different today. There is much more connectivity between the medical community and families and community resources, and though it is not perfect, there are so many more opportunities to help our children.

This newsletter is for you and your family and I hope it will help provide you with information that will support you and your family. Please enjoy the stories shared by families who have "been there and done that!" — See page 2.

If you have questions, please contact me anytime at my email address: [ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov)

Sincerely,  
Dan Dinnell



Dan, Eric and Cheryl

#### NEVADA's EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IDEA Part C Office

3416 Goni Road,  
Bldg. D, Ste 132  
Carson City, NV 89706  
Office: (775) 687-4210  
Fax: (775) 687-0574

[www.health.nv.gov/BEIS.htm](http://www.health.nv.gov/BEIS.htm)  
Project ASSIST  
1-800-522-0066

The Part C Family Newsletter has opportunities to suggest and share... You are invited to submit articles, share your story, or include your child in a Family Spotlight, with a photo. (All items are subject to editing and review.)

The **NATIONAL DISSEMINATION CENTER FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (NICHCY)** — <http://nichcy.org/>  
**THE LITTLE ONES: EARLY INTERVENTION/EARLY CHILDHOOD—**

#### **Effective practices in early intervention.**

NICHCY connects you into the knowledge base of effective practices in early intervention, wherever services are being provided -- an agency setting, the home, and across the child's natural environment — <http://nichcy.org/babies/effectivepractices>

#### **Transition to preschool.**

Early intervention services end at age three. These resources will help you to plan ahead if the child will need continued support in preschool so that the transition is smooth — <http://nichcy.org/babies/transition>

**Nevada PEP**, as the statewide Parent Training and Information Center, offers classes such as "**FAMILIES ARE IMPORTANT**" for families to better understand Early Intervention, their Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) and the Transition process from Early Intervention into the community or school districts. In "**SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE PARENT ADVOCACY**" participants will learn the importance of advocacy and effective strategies to help children with disabilities. Communication techniques will help you feel confident advocating for children. For more information on these and other classes, contact PEP statewide at **1-800-216-5188** or visit their website at: [www.nvpep.org/](http://www.nvpep.org/)

"I believe that parent leadership is an invaluable asset to a successful Early Intervention (EI) system. It is crucial for parents, who have experienced the journey, to participate and help pave the way for others who will follow similar paths. These parents act as guides by sharing their experiences, insights, and resources. They become the master teachers. There is no one better to help create, improve, and maximize these types of resources than someone who has experienced them firsthand. A new parent to the system is filled with questions, concerns, and uncertainties. An experienced EI parent has had the same questions and can provide a level of understanding and reassurance across the entire system that is unmatched by what a EI provider from one branch of the system can provide. Like everything else in life, we look to our friends or people who have had similar experiences for referrals or advice because they understand and can be a guide through their experiences. This parent understanding is the most invaluable resource and most underutilized asset to creating a community-wide successful EI program.



It is essential that parents who have experienced the EI system remain involved in the system so that there is continuity and continued growth. An experienced parent must evolve to a train-the-trainer and give back to the system by acting as a guide and resource for the next parent. By smoothing the way for the next parent by guiding them through, we continue to build a smoother, more useful, and more successful program. The EI system can be very overwhelming and confusing for a new parent. With so many branches and overlapping of resources and programs, it can be intimidating for a new parent to enter and participate in. When you have an experienced parent liaison to act as your guide and be a resource for you, you will be more empowered to participate and utilize all of the wonderful resources.

Experienced parents are an untapped and underutilized resource within EI programs. Nurturing their leadership skills and teaching them how to share their experiences with others will give back to the system immeasurably. By training them how to share their resources, you create an endless circle of benefits because the continuity of support and guidance never ends. As a new parent to the system, you want the best for your child and you want every resource at your disposal. An experienced parent has been in those same shoes and they hold the light and map to the path. Supporting, encouraging and tapping the parent resource by training and refining their leadership skills, therefore, is invaluable to any EI system." - Lori O'Leary, Parent Representative, Nevada Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)

**FREE....** Enrollment in the national **EARLY INTERVENTION FAMILY ALLIANCE (EIFA)** to *all families* who have a child in early intervention! **Keep informed! Obtain Answers! Impact Policies!**

The Early Intervention Family Alliance is a national leadership organization dedicated to improving outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, open to all.

Members receive email alerts and updates on key early intervention topics and can join the **EIFA** *list serve* to participate in active discussions and share experiences. Web: [www.eifamilyalliance.org](http://www.eifamilyalliance.org)

**NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

\* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ ***Nevada Early Intervention Services—Elko:***

⇒ ***Nevada Early Intervention Services—Ely:***

**NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

\* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ ***Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno:***

⇒ ***Easter Seals Nevada—Reno:***

⇒ ***Nevada Early Intervention Services—Reno:***

**Down Syndrome Network “Family Support Group”** - Usually every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month [except for Summer months activities] from 5:45 pm at NEIS-Enterprise. Call 775-682-9071 or e-mail [dsnninfo@gmail.com](mailto:dsnninfo@gmail.com) to R.S.V.P.

**Family TIES** provides family support in filling out **Medicaid/SSI and other Social Services applications** every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS-Enterprise, by RSVP only! Please call 775-823-9500 to RSVP.

**RAVE** will also have **Respite Applications** available every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS-Enterprise.

**Friends of Special Children** is looking for new board members to join their non-profit organization that supports families in Early Intervention. This non-profit has supported families at NEIS in so many ways both financially and physically. If you are interested in being a part of this great cause, contact Lori Schoen at 688-0379.

**Scholarship Applications for the Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum** are available by calling Lori Schoen, NEIS Supervisor, at 775-688-0379 or email address: [lschoen@health.nv.gov](mailto:lschoen@health.nv.gov)

**Hands and Voices** meets at NEIS, Enterprise Rd., May 16<sup>th</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every other month at 6:00 pm.

⇒ ***Nevada Early Intervention Services—Carson City:***

⇒ ***The Continuum—Reno:***

⇒ ***Therapy Management Group—Reno:***

**SOUTHERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

\* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ ***Easter Seals Nevada—Las Vegas:***

The Early Intervention Program at Easter Seals Nevada is hosting **playgroups** on Fridays. Come Join the Fun! For more information call or email Ella Philander, 702.428-4335 or [ella.philander@eastersealsnevada.org](mailto:ella.philander@eastersealsnevada.org)

⇒ ***ISS “BABY STEPS”—Las Vegas:***

⇒ ***Kideology—Las Vegas:***

⇒ ***Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas:***

⇒ ***Positively Kids—Las Vegas:***

Positively Kids will be hosting their annual **TOY DRIVE** in December — Like us on **Facebook** so that you can see all the great things we have happening! <https://www.facebook.com/positivelykids>

⇒ ***Therapy Management Group—Las Vegas:***

**Milagros Escondidos** meetings the last Thursday of each month, 6pm=8pm, at 6600 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 111

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**New Video to Improve Early Recognition of Autism Spectrum Disorders in Very Young Children**

The Kennedy Krieger Institute and Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) have published a free online video to improve the recognition of the early signs of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) among pediatricians, parents and early intervention providers.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtvP5A5OHpU&feature=youtu.be>

**Bringing the Early Signs of Autism Spectrum Disorders Into Focus** (2013, runtime 9:03 minutes) consists of six video clips that compare toddlers with no signs of ASD to toddlers with early signs of ASD and includes an explanation of how the specific behaviors exhibited by each child are either suggestive of ASD or typical child development.

Learn [more about the video](#) here:

<http://www.kennedykrieger.org/patient-care/patient-care-centers/center-autism-and-related-disorders/outreach-training/early-signs-of-autism-video-tutorial>

**EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION LIBRARY—**

*There are a great many things to learn... check them out!!!*

Library catalogue for other titles at — [http://health.nv.gov/BEIS\\_SpecialEdLibrary.htm](http://health.nv.gov/BEIS_SpecialEdLibrary.htm)

One of the resources available to families, service providers, students, and teachers working with young children with disabilities or special health care needs is the resource library. This large collection of books and videos is a tremendous source of information for parents and professionals in the care and education of a child with a disability.



**"A Will of His Own": Reflections on Parenting a Child with Autism.** This collection of essays reveals the often dizzying mix of heart-wrenching challenges and sweet elation that comes with a son with autism. Kelly Harland's stories explore the first nine years of her son's life and the new and unexpected universe she and her husband -- both professional musicians -- must learn to navigate with him.

These library materials are available for use statewide. For more information, contact your service provider or coordinator. If you have questions or recommendations for the Library, please contact me at **1-800-522-0066** or [ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov)



**Save the Date! Fathers & Families Coalition of America—15th National Fatherhood & Families Conference in Las Vegas, NV.** February 10-14, 2014. *Westin Lake Las Vegas Spa & Resort Hotel.* The Fatherhood and Families Conference is organized by the non-profit Fathers and Families Coalition of America, Inc. (FFCA) and is dedicated to sharing information that will better communities by strengthening and improving programs serving fathers and families. Conference speakers will come from across the nation and international faculty as well representing academia, government service, the private sector, community organizations and family and fatherhood programs. Web: <http://fathersandfamiliescoalition.org/national-conference-2014>

**Family TIES directs Nevada's Family-to-Family Healthcare Information and Education Center** and provides statewide support to families of children and youth with special health care needs by:

- Assisting families as they navigate public and private systems, including health systems and insurance plans,
- Assisting families in accessing services and resources for their children and in partnering with providers and caregivers,
- Listening to families as they describe their encounters with systems and helping guide them to possible solutions,
- Working with families, health care providers, public and private agencies, and advocacy or support groups to promote family-centered care and medical homes for children with special health care needs,
- Promoting discussion and linkages among families, providers, managed care programs, and government to better serve the health care and related needs of children and families in Nevada.

For more information call **1-866-326-8437** or visit their web site at:  
<http://www.familytiesnv.org/>



[www.health.nv.gov/BEIS.htm](http://www.health.nv.gov/BEIS.htm)

Nevada's Early Intervention website is filled with information and resources, including a "Links" page of all kinds of useful websites with information, and a Frequently Asked Questions page.

To receive the newsletter electronically and to make sure you don't miss out on useful information, please send your e-mail address to Dan Dinnell at [ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov)

